

## Foster Home Care

### Business Woman Turned To 'Career At Home'

After teaching in a rural school for one year, we moved to Rochester and I took a business course. Armed with such qualifications and education, I got a very nice position in a business office in an executive capacity, which I held for 10 years. But I always harbored a secret desire for a home of our own and children to share it with us. God did not send us any of our own, but we were always borrowing nieces, nephews and neighbor children.

In time, however, we decided we would like to have the complete responsibility and care for the entire twenty-four hours of a day, of a child or children. After my husband and I talked it over from many angles, all of which we did not know at that time, we made an appointment with the home-finder of the Catholic Family Center, an agency qualified to handle foster-home care of foster children.

We were told that a child could be placed for periods of varying lengths of time. These children came from broken homes, sick parents, housing problem cases, or new babies

from the hospital who might be placed for boarding care only, awaiting adoption plans. This is 17 years and more than fifty children later.

#### Nobody Wants Him

In all this time, my days are filled with heart warming happiness in the career at home as a foster mother. The first so-called "case" was a ten months old boy brought to me with the instructions, "Please give this child some love; nobody wants him." He was a sweet baby, with extra large blue eyes, a soft pale face and a generally good health condition and he gave himself to me in complete confidence. He was the object of a broken home.

Well, we gave him all the love of an only child. His sick needs were cared for through the very efficient medical care furnished by the agency. The monthly routine calls of the pediatrician gave great aid to an inexperienced full-time mother. His pretty suits and clothes were also furnished by the agency. After all this, at the end of two years, his moth-

er remarried and took him from us.

Needless to say, we were heart-broken and had not prepared ourselves for this day although we had many warnings from our caseworker. Let me add at this point that most children do have real parents to whom they will be reunited at some later time and one of the most difficult things a foster mother has to do is to prepare the child and herself for this occasion. It is understood, in most cases, when the child is placed in your home that the parents will have the privilege of visiting him or her at a definite time arranged by you and your social worker.

#### A Good Home

Our certificate issued under State regulations was issued for two children from birth to sixteen years. We have found that the child taken away is soon replaced by one needing the comfort and care of a good home.

Each child brought to us is carefully studied and allowed to pick his or her way for a day or two and then slowly adjustment to our way of living can be handled without unnecessary and definite "dos and don'ts".

In the case of the older children, they soon accept the home surroundings, call us by no definite name or Mom and Dad, or even Mr. and Mrs., but I never put too much emphasis on this.

The babies are brought to us with a layette and a formula, and your heart and love does the rest to develop a darling personality and body of God's greatest miracle.

There is so much heart-warming satisfaction in caring for special cases too. One I remember especially well, was a two-year-old boy who weighed 12 pounds when taken to the hospital from a broken home. After delicate care for several weeks at the hospital, the doctor thought that home-like surroundings might help him to get his appetite and spirit back so he was brought to me. With quiet, frequent eating of nourishing food, love and rest, this little lad gained one and a half pounds in one week and the doctor was very pleased as well as surprised. In time, he became a very normal healthy child.

#### Lucky Parents

All children, one or several, are a great deal of work and responsibility, but no heart can put into words what their innocent, contented warmth and love means to a mother and father who knew what it meant to want children so badly.

Together with all these various experiences with boarding children, we have also legally adopted two children — a lovely, strong, healthy boy and a precious bubbling girl. Both of the children have grown up to be a tremendous joy to us, happy in themselves, a credit to their school, church and

community. Our friends very often say, "What lucky children!" but we feel from the bottom of our hearts, "What lucky parents!" and we would like to talk personally to every couple who might be interested in boarding children, or adopting them.

At the present time, we have, in addition to our adopted children, two boarding boys. One of them we have had several years, and we are very fond of him, and he of us. He was in several foster homes before God sent him to us. When he arrived, we found him hard to get close to. It seemed that he had been moved so much he thought it useless to try to love anyone. In our home, we found it took him time before he wanted us but we proceeded to love him and make him feel wanted. He is now taking private music lessons and is also in his school orchestra, and has a personality that is a joy to be with, and we are sure that he will grow into a straightforward young man. That is what makes a career of foster parenting worthwhile.

The other little boy is in placement because of a housing problem. A very handsome child, sweet in his innocence, and impenetrable as any five year old normal boy. We feel that our work with him will build in him strength to cope with

necessary adjustments he will have to make when he returns to his family of five brothers and one sister.

In my work with children, the agency and the many caseworkers, and supervisors, I have always been very enthusiastic. Many times I have discussed the joy and happiness gained from boarding children with friends who have ultimately applied for a boarding license and followed with me in this work.

When people tell me what wonderful things are being done, and many times they do say just that to me, I secretly thank our dear Lord for the opening he has given me into His kingdom of little ones, and I am sure that our good fortune and health has been endowed to us through helping "the least" of His little ones.

For did He not say that, "he who does this to the least of my brethren doeth also unto me"?

#### SEVEN SPIRITUAL WAYS

There are seven ways in which Charity may be expressed spiritually: to instruct the ignorant; to counsel the doubtful; to admonish sinners; to bear wrongs patiently; to forgive offenses willingly; to comfort the afflicted; to pray for the living and the dead.

"No Job Too Large  
Or Too Small"

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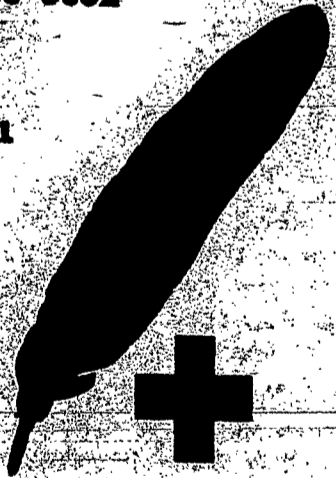
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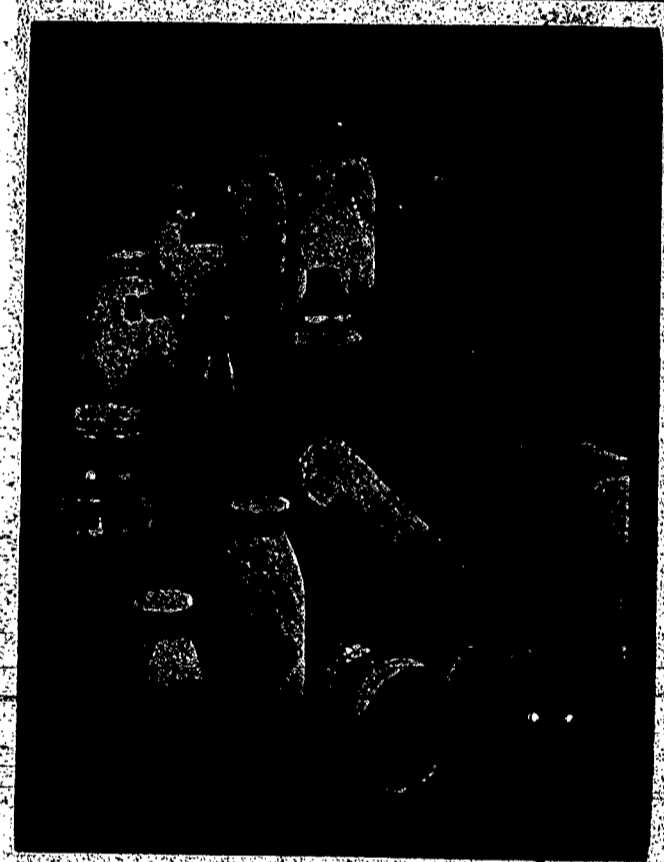
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